THE

WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

For MONDAY, April 11, 1803.

INTERESTING TRIALS.

Trials of Colonel Deſpard and his Accomplices for High Treaſon.

(Continued from Page 270.)

THE evidence and the arguments on both ſides being cloſed, the Lord Chief Juſtice proceeded to ſum up the evidence, and to deliver his charge to the jury. The charge was of conſiderable length, and was delivered with great ability, but for the reaſons we before ſtated, we can only give an imperfect ſketch of it. His lordſhip began by obſerving, that the addreſſes of the learned counſel and the evidence on both ſides being cloſed, it now remained with him to diſcharge his duty, which was, to recapitulate the evidence to the jury, and to make ſuch obſervations upon it as appeared to him to be neceſſary, which he ſhould do as faithfully, as correctly, and at the ſame time as ſhortly as he could. The priſoner at the bar ſtood indicted for the crime of high treaſon.—There were, according to the law of this country, different ſpecies of the crime of treaſon.—The ſtatute of the 25th of Edward III. was declaratory of the common law upon this ſubject. There were two other ſpecies of treaſon enacted by a late act of parliament; whether the offences ſpecified in that act were or were not treaſon before it paſſed, it was not now neceſſary to diſcuſs; certainly, they were always ſo conſidered. But by the act of the 36th of his preſent majeſty, conſpiring or agreeing to depoſe the king, or to reſtrain or impriſon his perſon, or to deprive him of his kingly name and dignity, were declared to be high treaſon. The firſt charge advanced againſt the priſoner in this indictment, was that of compaſſing and imagining the king's death, and upon theſe

points there were eight diſtinct overt acts charged; it was unneceſſary for him to do more than to ſtate the ſubſtance of them. They were applicable to the three different heads of charge to which he had before alluded, viz. 1ſt, that upon the ancient ſtatute for compaſſing and imagining the king's death: 2d, the impriſonment or reſtraint of his perſon; and, 3d, the conſpiring to depoſe his majeſty from his royal ſtate and dignity. The offence charged was, what was the purpoſe of the mind and imagination of the accuſed party to accompliſh, and the overt acts given in evidence to prove ſuch intention were, the different meetings and conſultations of the accuſed perſons in order to effect the purpoſe of their minds. The ſeducing of ſoldiers, ſpecifically named in the indictment, and many others, and the adminiſtering of unlawful oaths to bind them to the execution of their purpoſes, and to keep them ſecret. Thoſe purpoſes were, as had been already ſtated, to deſtroy the king, to take poſſeſſion of the bank and of the tower, to ſtop the mail-coaches, as a ſignal to the people in the country of the proceedings which had taken place, in the hopes that they would take the alarm and riſe. In addition to the object of either deſtroying or reſtraining the perſon of the king, it was alſo propoſed to ſurround the two houſes of parliament. It would be neceſſary, his lordſhip ſaid, before he proceeded to recapitulate the evidence to the jury, to make a few obſervations upon what had been ſaid upon the ſubject of words being conſidered as amounting to treaſon. It had been contended by the learned gentlemen of counſel with the priſoner, that words could not conſtitute the crime of treaſon. Now if it was merely meant that words were uſeleſs and inapplicable, to any purpoſe that indicated any particular deſign, they certainly could not be held to be high treaſon. But words uttered with a deſign to perſuade, or incite others to commit treaſon, or to concur in an act of treaſon, were undoubtedly in themſelves overt acts of treaſon. There could be doubt but that, when a conſultation was held for the purpoſe of deviſing means to commit treaſon, words uſed at ſuch a conſultation, with a view to perſuade perſons to engage in it, were overt acts of treaſon. This was a doctrine which, ſince the time of the deciſion which had been quoted by the ſolicitor general, had never been doubted, and he was confident never would be doubted. Another point which had been ſtrongly urged by the counſel for the priſoner was, that the jury ought not to attend to the evidence of an accomplice. This was certainly, in ſome inſtances, matter of very delicate conſideration. That an accomplice was a competent witneſs, was a propoſition that could not be doubted, and that he might, in many inſtances, be a credible witneſs, was alſo clear, for if an accomplice was not a competent witneſs, or if he was to be always conſidered as unworthy of credit, it would be uſeleſs to examine him at all. The evi-

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dence of accomplices, was, therefore, always received with great caution and conſideration. In this caſe ſome of the witneſſes were certainly to a certain extent ſullied, but not all in an equal degree. Some things might be imputed to ſome of the witneſſes, which certainly could not be imputed to others, but even thoſe who were liable to the greateſt objection on account of their character, might be confirmed in many by other witneſſes, and might even deſerve credit for things which they ſtated, from the clearneſs and conſiſtency of their own narration, but ſtill more ſo, when they were confirmed by others who were not linked with them in the conſpiracy, and alſo by a variety of external circumſtances. If it was true that accomplices were in no caſes to be deemed worthy of credit, then that which Lord Holt had ſtated would certainly be the conſequence, viz. that treaſonable conſpiracies could never be detected, becauſe it was perfectly clear that no perſon could give evidence of the circumſtances of a conſpiracy, but thoſe who were acquainted with them, and nobody could be acquainted with the circumſtances of the conſpiracy, but thoſe who met with the conſpirators, or who heard the particulars from the parties concerned. This was the caſe of the witneſs Emblin; it was not clear that he was implicated in this conſpiracy, though he certainly heard their conſultations. There was a deſcription of witneſſes who could not, with propriety, be called accomplices, although they might be preſent at the conſultations. For inſtance, if perſons attended for the expreſs purpoſe of diſcovering the intentions of the perſons who were conſulting for the expreſs purpoſe, perhaps, of checking and fruſtrating them; they might be witneſſes of the fact without partaking of the guilt, at leaſt in the caſe of treaſon. Such, perhaps, might be the caſe of Emblin, or he might originally have had ſome guilty intentions, and he might have wavered in his intentions afterwards, therefore the term accomplice did not belong to him, at leaſt it was not clear that it did. Certainly he was not without blame; no mind that was very delicate, would have countenanced crimes ſo long, though he afterwards might have diſcloſed them. Now having made theſe general obſervations upon the nature of accomplices, and having ſtated that they might be believed if their own ſtory was clear and conſiſtent, and eſpecially if they were confirmed by other witneſſes who were not ſuſpected, it remained for the jury to determine, whether the witneſs Emblin, was or was not to be believed in what he had ſtated. His lordſhip then proceeded to recapitulate the evidence which had been given. In commenting upon the evidence of the witneſs Francis, his lordſhip ſaid, that the paper was found in the room containing the declaration and the oath which had already been alluded to, and it was for the jury to conſider on the evidence which they had heard, whether the priſoner was or was not co-operative in the

deſigns of the other perſons who met at theſe conſultations for the purpoſes already mentioned, and which were charged as overt acts in the indictment. That this oath was, at all events, moſt dangerous and miſchievous was moſt certain. The words of it were theſe:

"In the preſence of Almighty God, I, A. B. do ſolemnly declare, that I will endeavour to the beſt of my power to obtain the objects of this union, viz. to recover thoſe rights which the Supreme Being in his infinite bounty has given to all men: that neither hopes nor fears, rewards nor puniſhments, ſhall induce me to give information, directly or indirectly, concerning the buſineſs of any member of this or any other ſimilar ſociety, ſo help me God."

The declaration which the oath alluded to, was this:

"Conſtitution.—The independence of Great Britain and Ireland—an equalization of civil, political, and religious rights—an ample proviſion for the families of thoſe heroes who ſhall fall in the conteſt; a liberal reward for diſtinguiſhed merit; theſe are the objects for which we contend, to obtain theſe objects we ſwear to be united."

What thoſe civil, religious, and political rights were, which they conſidered ſuch as muſt at all events be obtained, they had not ſpecified; perhaps they were ſuch as had been attempted to be obtained in another country. With reſpect to the "heroes who might fall in the conteſt," it was difficult to ſuppoſe how perſons could fall in a conteſt to obtain civil and religious rights, unleſs it was intended to uſe force to obtain them. This oath and declaration were therefore certainly of a dangerous and miſchievous complexion, even if taken abſtractedly; but if they were connected with other acts, they might ſerve to explain the intention of the perſons who formed theſe conſultations. Their intention, as declared at ſome of the meetings was, to take or deſtroy the perſon of the king. This was poſitively ſworn to by ſome of the witneſſes, againſt whoſe teſtimony no imputation would lie, and who alſo ſtated that the priſoner was one of the conſpirators. That he was ſeen in their company at various times and places was moſt clear, and that a paper was found in the room containing this oath and declaration was alſo true; though the paper certainly was not found upon the perſon of the priſoner. But if the priſoner was there when other perſons were conſulting and acting upon theſe ſubjects, it was for him to ſhew that he was there for any purpoſe different from that which was the intention of thoſe with whom he was aſſociated, that he had different views from thoſe which were imputed to him. It was for him to ſhew the reaſon why he came to be preſent at ſuch conſultation, and how he came to be ſo often at ſuch places, and in ſuch company, more particularly, when it was conſidered that at the Oakley Arms he appeared to command

mand the others, and they ſeemed to obey him. His lordſhip then went over the moſt material parts of the evidence of Windſor and Emblin, and obſerved that if the evidence of either of theſe men was true, or indeed if the evidence of the landlady, who ſwore to the words uſed by the priſoner, was to be relied upon, it would be for the jury to conſider whether the priſoner could poſſibly be innocent of the charge imputed to him. Having finiſhed his recapitulation of the whole of the evidence, his lordſhip ſaid, the facts were now all before the jury. It was admitted that the priſoner was at the places ſpecified in the indictment; it was admitted that he was preſent at theſe conſultations, and it was proved, that what was done at theſe conſultations, amounted to the crime of treaſon. Now he would aſk, if under theſe circumſtances the priſoner was not a traitor, who was a traitor? If, indeed, all the witneſſes were perſons who ought not to be believed upon their oaths, then there was an end of the caſe. If the witneſſes were perſons who were unworthy of credit upon their oaths, it was competent to the priſoner to have called witneſſes to ſhew that ſuch was their character; but no attempt had been made to call any evidence of that kind. As to what he had ſaid before reſpecting the evidence of accomplices, he would only add, that they muſt, almoſt in all traiterous conſpiracies, be examined before the conſpiracy could be diſcloſed. So much was this felt to be the caſe, that the proof of ſome conſpiracies had reſted chiefly, nay almoſt entirely, upon the evidence of accomplices. That was the caſe in the trial alluded to by the ſolicitor general, of the perſons concerned in the aſſaſſination plot: almoſt all the witneſſes were conſpirators and concerned in the plot, and yet their evidence was received and believed. But there were witneſſes examined in this caſe who were not accomplices. Several perſons who were ſtanding in the public-houſes, proved the priſoner to be preſent: the landlady of the Flying-Horſe had gone farther, for ſhe proved the language which the priſoner had made uſe of, and this was a moſt material confirmation. As to the witneſs Emblin, it might be ſaid that he did not poſſeſs quite ſo much delicacy as ſome men, but he did not ſee that his evidence was therefore wholly unworthy of credit. There were in ſome of the evidence ſome ſlips, but they were confirmed in almoſt every material point. It was ſaid that a man of the education and rank of the priſoner, could not, with any probability, enter into ſuch a plot with ſuch perſons as thoſe who were accuſed with him, but then they ought to have ſhewn how it was that a perſon of the rank and ſituation of the priſoner happened to be ſo often in company with thoſe perſons, and for what purpoſe it was that he aſſociated with them? If he was not a partaker in the conſpiracy which was proved and admitted to exiſt, for what purpoſe did he meet the conſpirators? What poſſible end could he propoſe

himself in constantly attending their consultations? Had the prisoner shewn, or had he attempted to shew, that he attended there for any innocent purpose. Had he offered any evidence to shew that he had endeavoured to dissuade the conspirators from their purpose?—None. If then the prisoner was found in these suspicious circumstances, and had given no evidence to explain his conduct, it remained for the jury to draw their own inference.—With regard to the character which had been given to the prisoner, it appeared that he had at one time enjoyed as good a character as a man could have. Lord Nelson (on whom it would be a waste of words to attempt any eulogium,) had given him one of the best of characters, as well as General Clarke, and Sir E. Nepean. But the evidence of these honourable persons had no relation whatever to the latter part of the life of the prisoner. This was the whole of the evidence on both sides. If the jury believed the evidence for the prosecution they had proved the case. It was, however, for the jury to say what credit they would give to the witnesses; and if they had any doubt, they would take into consideration the very excellent character which had been given to the prisoner. If, however, the witnesses for the prosecution were to be believed, he saw no ground upon which a doubt, either in law or fact, could rest.

The jury then withdrew, and in about forty minutes returned with a verdict of—GUILTY.

The foreman of the jury then said, "My lord, we earnestly recommend the prisoner to mercy, on account of the high testimonials of his former good conduct, services, and character."

The court then adjourned at three o'clock in the morning.

(To be continued.)

HISTORY *of* CAPTAIN WINTERFIELD.

(Continued from Page 264.)

EARLY in the first autumn of the colonel's residence at Bellinger House, he was one morning alarmed by the firing of guns, evidently as signals of distress. The night had been remarkably tempestuous, nor had the storm yet greatly abated, though it was near five o'clock. He arose, and opened a window which looked toward the sea: but it was too dark to perceive any object even close at hand, except when the pale lightning gleamed faintly on the swelling surges, or the momentary flash which preceded the distant cannon's melancholy roar, directed to the scene of horror, which appeared too remote from land to admit the possibility of that aid which the situation evidently demanded. The rain descended in torrents; the wind seemed to rock the solid foundation of the edifice; and the waves roared tremendous as they approached and retreated from the beach.

In this ſituation the colonel had remained full half an hour, inceſſantly putting up ejaculations for the ſouls of thoſe to whom he deſpaired of giving any corporeal aſſiſtance, when the wind blew with redoubled violence for the ſpace of ten minutes, the thunder roared dreadfully, and almoſt inceſſantly, and the quick flaſhes of lightning gave perpetually an inſtantaneous, though confined view of the agitated element; in the mean while guns of diſtreſs were every moment fired, and the awful ſounds ſeemed every time leſs diſtant from the ſhore. This laſt circumſtance was ſufficient to awaken the hope of ſaving a fellow-creature in the feeling boſom of the colonel. He immediately called up all his ſervants, and ordering ſome of them to alarm the neighbouring cottagers, proceeded with the reſt of his domeſtics to the ſea-ſide.

The ſtorm had now ceaſed, though the waves ſtill continued to run high; and as day had juſt began to dawn, the wreck was diſcernible about half a league from ſhore, where the veſſel had gone to pieces on a rock.

Though little or no proſpect of ſucceſs appeared, as all on board muſt of neceſſity have periſhed—a ſmall part only of the ſhip's hull remaining above water when it was firſt diſcovered, and that every minute diminiſhing—he nevertheleſs diſpatched a large boat with ſix men, whom he directed to reconnoitre the foundered veſſel, and if poſſible to take up any of the crew who might happily be floating on parts of the wreck.

In a quarter of an hour they reached the melancholy ſpot, but could only diſcover a ſmall trunk, and two or three dead bodies floating on the water; they, however, took theſe into the boat, and conveyed them to ſhore, where every preſcribed means for the reſtoration of life was in vain applied. Death had ſecured his prey!

The riſing ſun having by this time greatly extended the view, Colonel Bellinger perceived, apparently about half a mile beyond the wreck, a ſmall ſkiff, making toward it; and fearful leſt it ſhould contain ſome of the crew, who might meet a ſimilar fate by approaching too near, he jumped into the boat, and with his ſix men immediately went off to their aſſiſtance: but a few minutes before he could get ſufficiently near to warn them of the impending danger, their boat had ſtruck the rock, and was in a moment daſhed to pieces. It ſeemed to have contained about a dozen perſons, ſome of whom went under the wreck, and never again appeared. The colonel was, however, fortunate enough to take up three men and a woman; but he had given over the remainder for loſt, when he obſerved at a ſmall diſtance two more perſons floating on the water, a gentleman and a very young lady, folded in each other's arms: theſe, likewiſe, he happily ſecured, but life ſeemed wholly extinguiſhed. As all the men but the latter were very good ſwimmers, they were

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little worſe for the accident; the two females, therefore, and the gentleman laſt taken up, engaged the whole of his attention the moment he reached land. They were immediately conveyed to his houſe, where the proceſs recommended by the Humane Society, with which every man of humanity ought to make himſelf thoroughly acquainted, was unremittingly purſued for near two hours, before any ſigns of life appeared in the gentleman and the evident object of his regards; the lady who had been firſt diſcovered was reſtored in about twenty minutes.

At length, however, the latent principle was called forth into action; and a ſkilful phyſician, who had now arrived, declared them entirely out of danger; he recommended that they ſhould be kept as quiet as poſſible for the remainder of the day; and, after explaining to the colonel the mode of treatment neceſſary to be purſued till the next morning, ſaid he ſhould then make them an early viſit, though he hoped they would have little occaſion for his aſſiſtance.

The colonel himſelf attended them the whole day, and the moment they became ſenſible, he comforted the father and his daughter, for ſo he had diſcovered them to be, with aſſurances of their reciprocal ſafety; but he begged them to compoſe themſelves till the next day, when they ſhould certainly ſee each other the firſt moment either of them was able to riſe.

The phyſician arrived about eight in the morning: his patients had ſlept well, in conſequence of the opiates he had preſcribed, and the gentleman, in particular, ſeemed to think he ſhould be able to get up, though he was ſtill weak and languid. After regretting his inability to recompenſe either his hoſpitable preſerver, or the gentleman who ſo kindly attended to aſſiſt his benevolent exertions, he intreated that he might at leaſt know the names of his benefactors, though he could hardly flatter himſelf with the hope of ever making them any ſubſtantial return.

"Colonel Bellinger is too generous—" ſaid the phyſician: he could add no farther, before his patient, with a deep ſigh, fell back on his pillow, in a ſtate of inſenſibility. In a few minutes he recovered, and begged pardon for his weakneſs; but intreated that he might be immediately permitted to riſe, and make his acknowledgments to the colonel, with whoſe generoſity he was perfectly acquainted.

The phyſician withdrew in aſtoniſhment, to acquaint Colonel Bellinger with this extraordinary circumſtance; but that benevolent gentleman, being ſatisfied with the promiſing ſtate of his more particular gueſts, had juſt ſtepped to viſit the three men who were alſo preſerved, and whom he had the day before directed to be ſupplied with every neceſſary.

In the mean time, the young lady, impatient to behold her beloved father, had already riſen, and was now locked in his yet

feeble arms, when the colonel, on the repreſentation of his medical friend, approached the apartment.

"Thy Winterfield, and his hapleſs daughter!" ſaid the former, as the colonel entered: and they both knelt to their preſerver.

"It is impoſſible!" exclaimed Colonel Bellinger; but I will for a moment indulge the idea!" And he embraced them in his arms as they aroſe, and wept over them with all the bitterneſs of anguiſh. In a few minutes, lifting his eyes to Heaven, after a curſory ſurvey of the well-known though much-altered features—"Thy ways, O my Creator, are unſearchable; the myſteries of thy providence inexplicable; and thy goodneſs without limitation! It is, it is my friend, and I am not yet deprived of every bleſſing!" He then again folded them to his boſom, and again wept over them with joy.

When their agitated ſpirits were ſufficiently compoſed, Colonel Bellinger begged his friend to recapitulate the miraculous circumſtances by which Heaven had been graciouſly pleaſed to renew their felicity in his preſervation.

It appeared from Captain Winterfield's relation, that after he had been ſeen to fall, in conſequence of the wounds which he received, he was unconſcious of any farther occurrence till he found himſelf in the hut of a ſavage, where he was treated with great care and tenderneſs by the owner, whom he ſoon recogniſed to be the very perſon he had formerly taken into his ſervice. This grateful ſavage led one of the bands which compoſed the fatal ambuſcade, and ſeeing Captain Winterfield engaged, whom he inſtantly recollected, flew to his aſſiſtance, and ſaved him from being tomahawked by the furious Indians, almoſt at the expence of his own life: he, however, conveyed the captain ſafely to his hut, whoſe wounds he perfectly healed in ſomewhat leſs than three months.

This ſavage poſſeſſed great humanity; he had preſerved, on a former occaſion, the lady of a rich planter, with her infant daughter, whoſe huſband had been cruelly ſlaughtered by his brutal countrymen; and though the child died a few weeks after the fatal event, the mother, who was extremely beautiful, had remained near twelve months under the diſintereſted protection of this hoſpitable man, and ſtill compoſed part of his family. As the captain and this lady were in ſome meaſure fellow-ſufferers, they conſoled each other with the moſt cordial friendſhip; nor was the heart of either conſcious that it poſſeſſed any ſuſceptibility of a more tender impreſſion.

The lady was a native of England; and, though her parents had for ſome years been no more, ſhe wiſhed ardently to reſign her breath, too nearly exhauſted with perpetual ſighs for the melancholy loſs of an adored huſband, in the ſame country as ſhe had received it: Captain Winterfield, likewiſe, unceaſingly re-

gretted the want of probability that he ſhould ever again ſee his aged mother, and his lovely Penelope, though he was by no means unmindful that he had not yet ſatisfied the claims of his country on that life which had engaged in its ſervice, the war ſtill continuing, his wounds being quite healed, and his health and ſtrength almoſt re-eſtabliſhed. As the Britiſh troops had, however, for ſome time quitted thoſe parts, the worthy and hoſpitable ſavage repreſented in very juſt and ſtriking colours the difficulties which his gueſts would have to encounter in paſſing through the enemy's country, and adviſed them to embark for Europe in the firſt foreign veſſel they ſhould find on the Miſſiſſippi, whither he would himſelf undertake to eſcort them.

(To be continued.)

Account of a Proviſion for Cottagers keeping Cows, at Humberſton, in the County of Lincoln.

By THOMAS THOMPSON, Eſq.

[From the Reports of the Society for bettering the Condition of the Poor.]

IN the pariſh of Humberſton, near Grimſby, there are thirteen cottagers, every one of whom has one cow, with the means of keeping her, and ſome of them have more.

The whole of the pariſh is the property of Lord Carrington. The land on which the cottages ſtand, with the little paddocks and gardens adjoining, contains in the whole about ſixteen acres. Beſides this, at the diſtance of a quarter of a mile from the village, there are about ſixty acres of land appropriated to the uſe of the cottagers. This land is divided into two plats; one of which is paſture for the cows in ſummer, and the other is kept as meadow-land to provide hay for them in winter. Each cottager knows his own piece of meadow-land, and he lays upon it all the manure which he can obtain, in order that he may have the more hay. When one of the two plats of ground has been mown for two or three years, it is then converted into the ſummer-paſture, and the other is uſed as meadow-land; by which means no part of the land, occupied by the cottagers, is injured by conſtant mowing.

The cottagers are independent of the greater farmers, holding their cottages and lands directly of Lord Carrington, and not as under-tenants. This gives them a degree of reſpectability, which they would not otherwiſe poſſeſs. The rent, which they pay for their land, is below the farmer's rent; but it is certain that, in the greateſt part of this kingdom, the cottager would rejoice at being permitted to pay the utmoſt value given by the farmers,

farmers, for as much land as would keep a cow, if he could obtain it at that price.

Lord Carrington is the patron of the living of Humberſton; and, upon the laſt vacancy, he gave it to a reſpectable and conſcientious clergyman, who has exerted himſelf very ſtrenuouſly in the religious and moral improvement of his pariſhioners. He has laboured with great and good effect. The cottagers are ſober and induſtrious: and it is not known that any man in the pariſh lives in a courſe of habitual immorality. The clergyman, with Lord Carrington's aſſiſtance, has alſo ſucceeded in eſtabliſhing, for the benefit of the youth at Humberſton, a pariſh ſchool; which has been of very eſſential ſervice to the pariſh.

There is no public-houſe at Humberſton; nor do the pariſhioners deſire one: and on this account there are no cock-fightings or gaming within the pariſh; nor any drunken meetings for the purpoſe of ſettling the pariſh.

The poor-rates in the pariſh of Humberſton, which include the charges for the families of the militia, never amount to more than nine-pence or ten-pence in the pound on the rental, and generally are under ſix-pence.

Curious EXPERIMENTS *in* GALVANISM.

AN eminent ſurgeon, Mr. Wilkinſon, lately delivered, at his houſe, in Soho-ſquare, a lecture on galvaniſm, in which he introduced a variety of intereſting experiments, as to the deflagration of gold, ſilver, copper, and tin, and ſhewed the influence of the galvanic fluid on the nerves and muſcles of various dead animals.

A very numerous and elegant company of ladies and gentlemen attended the lecture. About one o'clock the lecturer commenced, by obſerving, that he had it in contemplation, in a courſe of lectures, to enter into the theory and practice of the new diſcovery in philoſophy, which had obtained the name of galvaniſm. It was, he ſaid, a diſcovery, which, as far as it had been inveſtigated, promiſed to be of the moſt important and eſſential advantage to mankind. Galvaniſm was one of the moſt powerful agents ever found out by the ingenuity of man; it was a ſpecies of electricity acting with irreſiſtible impulſe, not only on the nerves and muſcles, but even on the bones of animals; it was the effect of a principle, in metallic bodies, which had been diſcovered by mere chance and accident—Not that he meant to infer it owed its riſe to that ſort of accident which would have rendered it diſcoverable by any perſon unhabituated to the reſearches of experimental philoſophy. It might not be unentertaining to give a brief account of the origin of this ſcience—It was this:

Galvani was a phyſician who devoted much of his time and attention to philoſophical experiments: it happened that his wife was taken ill, and was adviſed to have a diſh of frogs. Several of thoſe animals were ſkinned, for the purpoſe of being dreſſed; the operation was performed by Mr. Galvani himſelf, and it was done in a room in which there was an electrical apparatus; during the time he had the point of his knife applied to one of the frogs, a gentleman, who ſtood near him, happened to draw an electrical ſpark from the machine; the profeſſor immediately obſerved an uncommon motion of the muſcles of the frog; the circumſtances attracted his notice, and led him to repeat the experiment: he found, that if the electric fluid was communicated to a perſon near him, while he held the point of his knife over the animal, its nerves and muſcles were viſibly affected. The lecturer here elucidated this part of the ſubject, by performing the experiment he had been deſcribing; he turned an electric apparatus, and communicated the fluid to a gentleman who ſtood by: he then took a frog, which had been ſkinned ſome hours, and laying it on a plate, applied the part of a ſharp inſtrument, ſuch as ſurgeons uſe, to the frog—immediately its body and limbs appeared to vibrate, but in no very material degree. The lecturer then proceeded to ſtate, that this experiment had urged the profeſſor Galvani to further inquiries; the reſult of which proved, that there was an electric fluid pervading the nerves and muſcles of animals, which was capable of being acted upon by metallic ſubſtances of almoſt every deſcription—but the metals zinc, copper, and ſilver, were diſcovered to be the moſt active. Having obtained his theory, he proceeded to put it in practice, and brought to perfection a ſeries of experiments, which the lecturer ſaid he would in due order ſubmit to his auditors. In acquittal of his promiſe, he now commenced a variety of experiments, the exhibition of which excited the wonder and admiration of all who beheld them. He took a half-crown and a piece of metal of the ſame ſize, compounded of zinc and copper, and having waſhed the half-crown, and the plate of metal with muriatic acid, or a ſolution of common ſalt and water, he laid them both on the table. He then placed the head of the frog on the half-crown, and the lower extremities on the other metallic plate, and brought the two plates of metal in contact by the application of the points of a piece of copper wire to each. The effect of this ſimple proceſs was ſurpriſing: the frog, which was extended over the two ſurfaces, appeared violently agitated, its whole frame ſhook, and every nerve ſeemed convulſed, it drew up its limbs, and then extended them, preciſely as that animal does in the act of ſwimming.

The company ſeemed highly ſatisfied with this wonderful proof of the power of galvaniſm; indeed the effect is not to be credited, except by thoſe who witneſſed it. The lecturer then

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went on to ſtate, that a philoſopher of the name of Volta, following up the ſyſtem of Galvani, had invented what had ſince been denominated the voltaic pile, an invention which had been communicated to Dr. Nicholſon, Dr. Carliſle, and many other learned men in this country. The lecturer deſcribed the nature of this invention and its effect, with no leſs ſucceſs than the former experiments; it conſiſted of a number of plates formed of zinc on one ſide and copper on the other, piled one upon another to the amount of about forty or fifty, with a piece of woollen cloth, moiſtened with the muriatic acid, placed between each. Upon a perſon's wetting his hands with the acid, and applying the finger of one hand to the bottom of the pile, and a finger of the other hand to the piece of metal on the top, he immediately received a ſhock, which we ſhall find ſome difficulty in deſcribing: it was ſomething like what we read of the effect produced by the touch of the torpedo: the fluid ſeemed to be particularly attracted towards the knuckles and the joint of the elbows; the ſenſation was extremely unpleaſant, but it was nothing to what was produced by a ſubſequent experiment.

The lecturer took a frog, and held the end of its toes immediately over the upper plate of the pile, inſtantly the limbs began to move with more violence than they had done before; the animal was entirely agitated, and the motion of its legs and thighs was as ſtrong as if it had been actually alive. The lecturer then ſtated, that another profeſſor, we believe of the name of Suza, had written to Sir Joſeph Banks, informing him he had invented a metallic battery, by which the effect of the galvanic fluid might be conſiderably concentrated and increaſed. Sir Joſeph Banks, with the aſſiſtance of other learned men with whom he communicated, had ſucceeded to their utmoſt expectations in conſtructing ſuch a battery, and the lecturer ſaid he propoſed to ſhew the company the effect of it. This battery conſiſted of four boxes, each about two feet long and four inches broad, placed ſo as to form a ſquare; they were filled with metallic plates, one ſurface of which was zinc and the other copper, placed at the diſtance of about a quarter of an inch from each other, and ſtrongly cemented in the boxes containing them. The ſpace between theſe plates was filled up with the muriatic acid, and the metallic communication was effected by a piece of copper paſſing from the laſt ſpace of one box into the firſt of the other; this proceſs occupied a conſiderable time; when it was completed the lecturer ordered the windows to be cloſed, ſo as to exclude the light, and he proceeded to exhibit various experiments. With regard to the deflagration of different metals, ſuch as gold, ſilver, and copper, the effect produced by theſe experiments was no leſs aſtoniſhing than beautiful: he took a ſmall plate of zinc and copper which communicated with the liquor in the boxes, and placing it in contact with the metals

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we have deſcribed, they immediately diſſolved; the diſſolution of the gold produced a vivid red flame, that of the ſilver a bright green one, and the copper a black red one.

The next and laſt experiment was by far the moſt extraordinary. The head of a ſheep was brought in, which had been recently cut off from the animal, and was ſcarcely cold: this was placed in the middle of the four boxes forming the battery: a plate of zinc, about the ſize of a half-crown, communicating by a wire with the ſalt and water in one of the boxes, was introduced into the mouth of the ſheep, and the lecturer applied another piece of the ſame metal, communicating in like manner with another box, to the ſpine of the animal; immediately the whole face of the ſheep exhibited the moſt extraordinary diſtortions, the lips quivered, the noſtrils expanded, the teeth chattered, the eyes opened and ſhut, the iris was contracted, the ears moved violently to and fro, and the entire head appeared in motion. It is impoſſible to expreſs the ſurpriſe of every one at theſe wonderful phenomena. The lecturer then took out one of the eyes, and placing it upon the table, applied the ſame ſtimulus to it; the optic nerve exhibited a tremulous motion, and the iris contracted itſelf and expanded again.

Theſe experiments having excited the admiration of the company, the lecturer concluded by ſome general obſervations; he ſaid that he had, in the courſe of his practice of late, applied the galvanic theory to many caſes in which he had been conſulted, particularly to caſes of deafneſs and paralytic and topical affections. He had no doubt whatever, but that it might in time be found applicable to many of the diſorders and caſualties incident to human life; he added that in his next lecture he ſhould enlarge upon the connection between galvaniſm and chemiſtry.

Having terminated his lecture, the company unanimouſly expreſſed their approbation, and many amuſed themſelves by experiencing the ſhock communicated by the electric battery—but we believe very few repeated it. It was done by dipping the fingers into two glaſſes of muriatic acid, communicating with the boxes by a piece of metal, and the lecturer immerſing a piece of copper in the ſpace filled with water between the plates. The whole frame was inſtantly benumbed, and the effect did not immediately ſubſide, but left a very unpleaſant ſenſation.

Here ended the firſt day's lecture.

On the ſecond evening, Mr. Wilkinſon did not, as he had promiſed at the concluſion of his former lecture, enter into a minute inveſtigation of galvaniſm as connected with chemiſtry, but with ſome ſlight alterations repeated the lecture he had before delivered, and this he ſaid he did in conſequence of his auditors being infinitely more numerous, and from a deſire that

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thoſe who had not heard the former diſcourſe ſhould be the better enabled to underſtand the ſubject of which he treated in its various branches and applications. He obſerved, that the influence of galvaniſm had, at the earlier periods of its diſcovery, been ſuppoſed to apply only to organic ſubſtances, and to have no relation whatever to chemiſtry; but in proceſs of time Doctors Nicholſon and Carliſle had ſhewn how by its agency water might be decompoſed: in fact, it was ſo active an agent, that it was impoſſible to know all the purpoſes to which it might be applicable. Some philoſophers had imagined that galvaniſm was influenced by ſubterraneous electricity. However this might be, it certainly was the reſult of a principle which might be applied to rouſe the heart into action, even after it had been ſome time in a ſtate of inactivity. The lecturer ſaid, that after ſome of thoſe experiments he had already exhibited, it would be the object of his lectures to inveſtigate the galvanic fluid as a chemical agent: and he ſhould alſo ſhew how galvaniſm, in its principle, differed from electricity. The lecturer ſtated, as he had before done, the origin and progreſs of the ſcience; obſerving, in addition, that the greateſt effect produced by galvaniſm was by the application of zinc and gold, or zinc and ſilver; but, he ſaid, zinc and copper were obliged to be uſed, in conſequence of the other metals rendering the proceſs too expenſive. It might be ſuppoſed, that the metals produced the principle that diſturbed the muſcles; but he ſhould in the courſe of his experiments ſhow, that that was not altogether the caſe; for he ſhould prove, that if he detached the ſciatic nerve of an animal, and applied it to the muſcles, the effect would be preciſely the ſame as was produced by metals.

The lecturer here repeated the experiments of the voltaic pile, and ſhewed how water might be decompoſed by the mere contact of zinc and ſilver in a ſulphuric diſſolution.

The lecturer alſo diſplayed a variety of experiments, in order to ſhew the difference with regard to the oxydation and deflagration of metals by electricity and galvaniſm. With this view, he charged an electrical battery of fifteen jars, and produced the oxydation of the different metals, gold, ſilver, lead, copper, tin, and zinc. The effect of this experiment was very beautiful; the electric fluid produced the oxydation of the metals on ſheets of white paper, which exhibited radii of as many different colours as there were metals. He then had recourſe to the galvanic battery, by which the ſame metals were thrown into an immediate ſtate of deflagration; even gold, which cannot be oxydated by the heat of any furnace, however powerful, was by the effect of the galvanic fluid, inſtantly reduced to a perfect oxygen, ſpecifically lighter than the metal itſelf. Having afforded unſpeakable delight to the company by theſe wonderful experiments, he ordered the head of a calf to

be brought in and laid upon the table. We really doubt whether our deſcription of the phenomena he exhibited will gain credit with our readers; but we aſſure them, we ſhall not exaggerate what we witneſſed in the ſmalleſt degree. The head being placed in the middle of the galvanic battery, the lecturer put a ſmall plate of the compound metals zinc and copper into the mouth, and applied another piece, communicating by a wire with the battery, to the *maſciter* muſcle of the œſophagus—Strange to tell! the mouth and lips began to move preciſely as when the animal, in its living ſtate, is in the act of deglutition or chewing its food, and the action produced exactly the ſame kind of noiſe as that operation—We know not how to deſcribe the ſort of noiſe, but thoſe who have obſerved cattle in the act of deglutition, will eaſily be ſenſible of what we mean.

The company were ſo aſtoniſhed, and ſo well pleaſed at the reſult of this experiment, that they rewarded the lecturer by a general burſt of applauſe. The lecturer then applied the ſtimulus to the naſal and frontal muſcles, and the whole viſage of the animal exhibited ſymptoms of the moſt acute pain, though doubtleſs it muſt have been inſenſible to that affection. The noſtrils experienced the ſame degree of agitation as in the act of violent breathing. Every nerve was in a ſtate of activity, and it ſeemed as if the head would have leaped out of the plate or diſh in which it was contained. The lecturer then drew out the tongue, and confined it with a large pair of iron pincers, and upon applying the metal to the auricular nerve, the animal (if we may uſe the expreſſion), actually drew back the tongue into its mouth, and forced the weighty pincers to the extremity of its lips! The lecturer applied his irreſiſtible ſtimulus alternately to every muſcle of the head, and the effect was uniform—the eye exhibited the ſame degree of action as in its animated ſtate, and, what was aſtoniſhing, emitted ſparks of fire, or rather galvanic fluid, upon the metal being applied to it.

On COMPOSITION.

By the Rev. J. EVANS.

SOME are of opinion, that its growth, at preſent, is too luxuriant, and that the preſs is overcharged. Overcharged, I think it could never be, if none were admitted but ſuch as brought their imprimatur from ſound underſtanding and the public good. Wit, indeed, however brilliant, ſhould not be permitted to gaze ſelf-enamoured on its uſeleſs charms in that fountain of fame (if ſo I may call the preſs), if beauty is all that it has to boaſt; but, like the firſt Brutus, it ſhould ſacrifice its moſt darling offspring to the ſacred intereſts of virtue and real ſervice of mankind.

A NEW VARNISH *for* EARTHEN-WARE.

WAGNER, of Magdeburgh, has lately diſcovered a new varniſh for earthen-ware, which he has generouſly publiſhed. To make it, equal portions of white glaſs and ſoda muſt be pounded together very fine, and well ſifted and mixed. The mixture is next expoſed to a ſtrong heat, till very dry; and afterwards put into veſſels which have been already baked; it is then melted, and the varniſh is made. It is uſed like common varniſh. The advantage of it is, that it is ſafe, and can have none of thoſe poiſonous effects which ariſe from the decompoſition of the lead varniſh.

COURAGEOUS *and* PHILANTHROPIC ACT.

THE following inſtance of exemplary behaviour we record with pleaſure: A letter from Middleburgh, dated the 18th of February, 1803, has the following particulars:

"The late wreck of a veſſel off here, called De Vriendſchap, gave birth to a deed of courage and philanthrophy worthy of record. The wind and waves drove her, on the 16th, nearer the ſhore. Preparations had, indeed, been made to ſave the crew and cargo, but no one ſeemed inclined to venture on the work, till one Gerrit Jane Bakker, maſter of a veſſel which had been damaged, and John Mets, a freeman of Fluſhing, repaired to the ſtrand, oppoſite the wrecked ſhip; and, as the only means of getting on board, theſe two men ſtripped themſelves quite naked, notwithſtanding the ſeverity of the weather, and ſwam between the pieces of ice, which obſtructed their progreſs, till with great pains they got on board, where they beheld a moſt heart-piercing ſcene. The enormous billows of the preceding night had filled the veſſel with water, and conſtrained the people to ſeek their ſafety on the open deck, where they were momentarily in danger of being waſhed overboard by the waves and pieces of ice which rolled over her ſides. The captain, a little boy his ſon, and a ſailor, overcome by cold and fatigue, were found lifeleſs, ſitting preſſed together near the mizen-maſt, the unhappy father, as it were, ſtill preſſing to his breaſt the clay-cold body of his child, where he had cheriſhed him as long as his ſtrength would permit. Three others, the mate, a pilot, and a ſailor-boy, lay in a pitiable ſtate on the top of the cabin, where they would alſo ſhortly have breathed their laſt, but for the courage and humanity of their deliverers, who, faſtening two of them on their backs, ſwam with them to the ſhore, and then returned for the third, all of whom were, by proper applications, reſtored to the uſe of their faculties."

Anſwer, by J. Squance, of Exeter, to J. O. Zillwood's Enigma, inſerted Jan. 3.

THE EAR conveys unto the heart
The words ſoft friendſhip doth impart;
Without whoſe aid e'en muſic's charm
Dire fury's rage could not diſarm.

Anſwer, by T. Boult, of Exeter, to C. Mackey's Rebus, inſerted February 21.

IF in the GOSPEL you believe,
A crown of glory you'll receive.

☞ We have received the like anſwer from J. Whittle, of Upway; Henry Humphreys, and William Strong, of Exeter; Eleanor, of Plymouth Dock; J. Bloomfield, and T. Adey, of Poole; B. Fiander, of Melbury Oſmond; and W. C. of Broadhempſton.

Anſwer, by S. L. Margary, of Newton Abbott, to J. Channon's Charade, inſerted February 21.

LONG may the LIFE-BOAT grace this happy iſle!
And long may trade and commerce deign to ſmile!
Then ſhall each nation view our riſing fame,
And all the world revere Britannia's name.

*** We have received the like anſwer from J. Whittle of Upway; Henry Humphreys, P. Gove, R. H. J Squance, and William Strong, of Exeter; W. C. of Broadhempſtead; and J. Bloomfield, and T. Adey, of Poole.

A CHARADE, *by W. Bickham, Jun. of Aſhburton.*

MY firſt's a very uſeful art;
My next liquor contains;
My whole, kind Sirs, will well impart
What's uſeful, for your pains.

A CHARADE, *by J. Whitford, of St. Auſtell.*

WHEN winter comes, with rugged mien,
My firſt o'er ſpreads the land;
My ſecond's of the fruitful rain,
When it in floods deſcends:
My whole belongs to Flora's tribe,
Which you, with eaſe, will ſoon deſcribe.

A CHARADE, *by S. L. Margary, of Newton Abbot.*

WHEN night puts on her ſable frown,
And gloomy darkneſs ſpreads around,
Then is my firſt in plenty ſeen,
If all is tranquil and ſerene;
And, bards, my next, I underſtand,
Was made when wiſdom form'd the land;
And to this time, this very hour,
All nations own its pleaſing power:
Now, bards, ſelect the parts, and then
The anſwer ſtrait to Sherborne ſend.

POETRY.

Lines written by the late Mr. Cowper, and addreſſed to Mrs. Unwin, the Mother of his Friend, the "Companion" mentioned in "The "Taſk."

THE twentieth year is well nigh paſt,
Since firſt our ſky was overcaſt;
Ah! would that this might be the laſt,
My Mary.

Thy ſpirits have a fainter flow,
I ſee thee daily weaker grow:
'Twas my diſtreſs that brought thee low,
My Mary.

Thy needles once a ſhining ſtore,
For my ſake reſtleſs heretofore;
Now ruſt diſus'd and ſhine no more,
My Mary.

For tho' thou gladly wouldſt fulfil
The ſame kind office for me ſtill,
Thy ſtrength now ſeconds not thy will,
My Mary.

But well thou play'dſt the houſewife's part,
And all thy threads, with magic art,
Have wound themſelves about this heart,
My Mary.

Thy ſilver locks, once auburn bright,
Are far more lovely in my ſight,
Than golden beams of orient light,
My Mary.

For could I view nor them nor thee,
What ſight worth ſeeing could I ſee,
The ſun would riſe in vain for me,
My Mary.

Partakers of the ſad decline,
Thy hands their little force reſign,
Yet gently preſs, preſs gently mine,
My Mary.

Such feebleneſs of limbs thou prov'ſt,
That now at every ſtep, thou mov'ſt
Upheld by two, yet ſtill thou lov'ſt,
My Mary.

And ſtill to love, tho' preſs'd by ill,
In wintry age to feel no chill,
With me is to be lovely ſtill,
My Mary.

Yet ah! by conſtant need I know,
How oft the ſadneſs that I ſhow,
Transforms thy ſmiles to looks of woe,
My Mary.

And ſhould my future lot be caſt,
With much reſemblance of the paſt,
Thy worn out heart will break at laſt,
My Mary.

On a SMILE.

HAIL ſweeteſt beauty of the face!
Thy charms laſt but a moment's time;
Tell me why that alluring grace,
Thou painter of the cheek divine?

Do not the raptures of the heart,
Convey thy pow'rs to human ſight?
To us more laſting rays impart,
Nor give to us ſuch ſhort delight.

Shall thus the cheering rays of peace,
Give but a tranſient, feigning ſmile?
No! No! let jarring diſcord ceaſe,
And peace ſtill bleſs Britannia's iſle.

Southmolton. R. BERRY.

TO THE SWALLOW.

GAY herald of the roſy ſpring,
Returning now on rapid wing,
Low to ſweep the lake or ſtream,
Or baſk beneath the ſunny beam;
O! haſte thee, while the ſofteſt ſhow'rs
Are vegetating nature's flowers,
To animate the inſect brood,
And cater thus thy flitt'ring food;
O come, and wantonly partake,
Of every banquet Sol can make;
For when exhauſted is the ſtore,
I know thou'lt tarry here no more,
But quickly hie to other ſkies,
For newer feaſts on choicer flies!
So man's frail friends with him remain,
While ſummer richly decks his plain;
But as his winter blaſts come on,
Like you, they inſtantly are gone!

CUPID DISARMED.

AS Cytherea, plump and fair,
Walk'd out one day to take the air,

She heard a plaint of ſorrow made
Within a fragrant myrtle ſhade:
Unuſual plaint, in that bleſt iſle,
Where all were wont to ſing and ſmile.

In anxious haſte the goddeſs flies,
When, lo—her ſon arreſts her eyes;
In tears diſſolv'd the urchin lay,
His bow, his quiver—flung away.

" What mean thoſe tears?——dire
" ſhame!" ſhe cried,
" Mamma! " the blubb'ring god re-
" plied—
" As late on flow'ry couch reclin'd,
" I liſten'd to the murm'ring wind,
" A gentle ſlumber ſoftly ſtole,
" And lull'd to reſt my tranquil ſoul:
" As thus in quiet ſtate I lay,
" Some hand convey'd my darts away;
" From hence thoſe anguiſh'd plaints
" ariſe,
" From thence thoſe tears that dim
" my eyes."

The laughter-loving goddeſs ſmil'd
To ſee her conqu'ring ſon beguil'd:
" Your darts are fate, fond boy," ſhe
" cries,
" They're but transferr'd to Emma's
" eyes;
" On Emma's lips you'll find ten
" ſcore,
" On Emma's cheeks as many more.
" Diſſolv'd in ſweets by Emma's
" breath,
" You'll find ten thouſand wing'd
" with death:
" What hoſts of arrows arm her
" cheeks!
" Her tongue emits them when ſhe
" ſpeaks:
" O'er all her finiſh'd form now ſtray,
" In heaps they ſtrew the milky way;
" But if the ſureſt darts you'd find,
" Go ſearch in Emma's heav'nly
" mind.
" Then grieve not thus with vain
" alarms,
" When fate concludes her golden
" reign,
" The pow'r transferr'd to her ſoft
" charms,
" Reſtor'd, ſhall be thine own
" again."

EUGENIO.

" I'll find this Emma out, and try
" Who is more cunning, ſhe or I"

Away the wily urchin flew,
And ſtraight deſcried the maid;
The moment was propitious too
His dire intent to aid:
For in attentive mood ſhe hung
To hear a tale from Edwin's tongue.

She heard, not dreading ill or hate,
A tale of wond'rous chance;
And joy'd or griev'd the varying fate
Of chiefs in wild romance.
Juſt then to Edwin's lips love ſtole,
And breathes forth all his paſſ'nous
ſoul.

His accent Emma now admires,
And now his poliſh'd taſte,
And now his ſentiment conſpires
Her raptur'd ears to feaſt.
While love the ſubtil magic flung,
With ev'ry word that left his tongue.

The tale is paſt—no more he reads;
She feels unwonted pain:
At her requeſt the youth proceeds
To read it o'er again;
And ſtill 'tis finiſh'd—ſtill begun,
Till all the live-long day is ſpun.

Love ſaw the conflict in her ſoul,
And thus exulting cried:
" What tho', fair nymph, my darts
" you ſtole,
" Yet I have pow'rs beſide,
" When ſhafts, and flames, and forms
" are vain,
" Accompliſh'd worth the heart will
" gain."

EUGENIO.

CUPID REVENGED.

" WHAT tho' my arrows have
been ſtole,"
Says Cupid in a pet;
" I have ſome poiſon in my ſoul,
" Enough for vengeance yet;

Inſcription on the Urn erected to the Memory of Mr. Maſon, in the Flower Garden at Nuneham, written by Counteſs Harcourt.

THE poet's feeling and the painter's eye,
In this thy lov'd retreat we plea'd deſcry.
Ah! Maſon! in the ſcene thy fancy dreſs'd,
Oft ſhall the ſigh of ſorrow heave the breaſt;
Oft recollection picture to the mind
The various talents that in thee were join'd;
Thy ſimple manners that diſdain'd all art,
The genuine piety that warm'd thy heart;
Thy ſteady friendſhip juſtly might require
Numbers like thoſe that once inform'd thy lyre!